

# MICROGRAPHIA.

## Observ. XLIX. Of an Ant or Pismir.



This was a creature, more troublesome to be drawn, than I could rest, for I could not, for a good while, think of suffering its body to lie quiet in a natural posture; but when I saw if its feet were fetter'd in Wax or Glew, it would so twist its body, that I could not any wayes get a good view of it; its body was so little, that I did often spoile the shape I could thoroughly view it: for this is the nature of these creatures, that as soon, almost, as ever their life is destroy'd, their parts shrivel, and lose their beauty; and so is it also with the Mosses, as I instanced before, in the description of Moss. And therefore I have taken notice of the variations in the beards of wild Oats, and in the seeds of Grass, that their bodies, being exceeding small, those which are made in the surfaces of all bodies, almost upon the surface of Air, especially if the body be porous, do here become the whole body is so small, that it is almost nothing but surface. In vegetable substances, I see no great reason to think, that the Aire (that, sticking to a wreath'd beard, does make it evaporate, or exhale away, any faster then the moisture of the body, but rather that the avolation from, or access of moisture of bodies being much the same, those bodies become moist, which have the least proportion of body to their surface, with Animal substances; the dead body of an Ant, or such other thing, does almost instantly shrivel and dry, and your object shall be almost nothing, before you can half delineate it, which proceeds from an extraordinary exhalation, but from the small proportion of moisture, to the usual drying of bodies in the Air, especially in the case of this inconvenience, where I could not otherwise remove it of this expedient.

I took the creature, I had design'd to delineate, and put it in a very well rectified spirit of Wine, this I found would preserve it as it were, the Animal, and being taken out of it, and lay in the spirit of Wine would immediately fly away, and leave the body dry, in its natural posture, or at least, in a constitution, that may be easily with a pin be plac'd, in what posture you desired to draw it. The limbs would so remain, without either moving, or shriveling. I have dealt with this Ant, which I have here delineated, which was a very large kind, that inhabited under the Roots of Trees, whence they would fall out in great parties, and make much havoc of the Flowers and Fruits, in the ambient Garden. It was more then half the bigness of an Earwig, of a dark reddish colour, with long legs, on the hinder of which it